

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 and 29-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11-13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 24, 26 and 29-32 have been amended. Claim 28 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action has objected to the specification because paragraph 0050 contains a hyperlink. As suggested by the Examiner, paragraph 0050 has been amended by enclosing the hyperlink with the symbols "<" and ">". Accordingly, it is submitted that the amendment obviates the objection to the specification and, therefore, that the objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-14, 26-29, 31-34, 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,754,885 to Dardinski et al., hereafter Dardinski. This rejection is moot as to claim 28, which has been canceled.

This rejection is traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to provide antecedent reference between "plurality of states" recited in the receiving step and the "current" and "next" states recited in the providing step.

Dardinski lacks a user defined life cycle process having a plurality of states and, therefore, lacks each of the steps of amended independent claim 1. Dardinski does not disclose any ability of a user to define a life cycle process having a plurality of states and a plurality of user defined state transitions between the states. Dardinski discloses a fixed system of version control that allows user changes to objects, but allows no user changes to states that govern changes to objects.

Independent claims 11-13 have been amended to recite a user defined states and/or user defined state transitions. As noted above, Dardinski lacks a user defined life

cycle process having a plurality of user defined states and, therefore, lacks the steps of independent claims 11-13.

Independent claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the language of claim 28, which has been canceled. Dardinski lacks a life cycle process component to enforce compliance with user defined life cycle states and a state configuration component that receives state information from a user for each state as recited in independent claim 26.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-14, 26-29, 31-34, 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Dardinski is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 15 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Dardinski in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,000,118 to Murthy et al., hereafter Murthy.

This rejection is traversed.

With respect to claims 5 and 35, Dardinski lacks steps/elements of independent claims 1 and 26 from which claims 5 and 35 depend. Murthy, which was cited for a different reason, does not supply the deficiency of Dardinski. Therefore, claims 5 and 35 are unobvious over the combination of Dardinski and Murthy.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to recite that the state transition is a user defined state transition. Dardinski does not disclose a user defined state transition. Therefore, Dardinski lacks each of the steps of amended independent claim 15.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 5, 15 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 16-25 and 30 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Dardinski in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,747 to Van Huben et al., hereafter Van Huben.

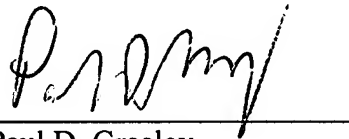
Independent claims 16, 18, 21 and 24 have been amended to recite user defined states. As noted above, Dardinski lacks a qualification process that has user defined states. Therefore, Dardinski lacks the steps of amended independent claims 16, 18, 21 and 24. Van Huben, being cited for another reason, does not supply the deficiency. With respect to claim 30, Dardinski lacks elements of independent claim 26 (as set forth in the discussion of claim 26) from which claim 30 depends. Van Huben, which was cited for a different reason does not supply the deficiency of Dardinski. For the above reason, claims 16-25 and 30 are unobvious over the combination of Dardinski and Van Huben.

For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 16-25 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the objection to the specification be withdrawn, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claims 1-27 and 29-37 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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